

The Name Above Every Name

No. 55

Introduction.

I. Recently I read this provocative article, by John Banister a gospel preacher, entitled “More of Christ.”

Congregations today need not greater plans and programs, but more of Christ! Not more up-to-date schemes and gimmicks, but more of Christ! Not more business meetings and gatherings, but more of Christ! Not more highly educated preachers, but more of Christ! Not a more elite and social minded people, but more of Christ! Not more wealth, but more of Christ! Not greater numbers but more of Christ!

Elders, deacons and ministers should pray, work and plan for Christ to dwell in the congregation. Christ must be in the worship, in the business meeting, the classes, the personal work, the benevolent program and in all other activities of the congregation.

No amount of planning and scheming can ever be a substitute for the power of this indwelling Christ in the congregation. We need to put less emphasis on material matters, and concentrate more on the transforming of the congregation into the image of Jesus Christ! Herein lies the real strength of the congregation, and the salvation of the church in our day. *Let Christ be all in all!*

II. **These words are so true and so needed in the church.** The greatest need of the church is to highly exalt the precious name of Jesus and make Him pre-eminent in everything. We need “more of Christ.” “Let Christ be all in all!”

A. The text of our lesson today is one that exalts Christ. It is Philippians the 2nd chapter, verses 5-11.

PHI 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

PHI 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

PHI 2:7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

PHI 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

PHI 2:9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

PHI 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth,

PHI 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

B. There are **many great thoughts** in these verses.

1. Paul tells us that though Jesus was God (Deity) that He came to this earth “in appearance as a man.”

He did not come to be served but to serve. He humbled Himself by dying a shameful, scandalous death on the cross. Because of this “God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.”

2. It is God’s desire that “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow” and “that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

III. **Shakespeare** once said there is nothing in a name and if you called a rose by any other name it would smell just as sweet.

- A. He was right in a sense, but in a sense, however, he was wrong. If I were to endorse a check for a million dollars and give it to you, it would be worthless. But if it had the name Rockefeller on it, it would be of great value to you.
- B. Names do mean something and I would like for us to talk about the greatest and sweetest name that has ever been spoken upon this earth - the name of Jesus.
- C. There are **five things** I would like to say about the name of Jesus.

I. **A Saving Name** - The name of Jesus is a saving name.

- A. Before Jesus’ birth, the angel said to Joseph. (Matt. 1:21).
 1. Jesus was a Teacher, a Preacher, a Healer, our Example, but primarily He was and is a Savior.
 2. Jesus went to the cross and shed His blood that we might have the remission of our sins and escape hell. All those who will turn from their sins and trust in Jesus will be given the gift of salvation.
 3. Those who reject Christ are in danger of the eternal flames. All our goodness, all our works and all our money cannot save us. There is only one way of escape. A man must come to Jesus and put his trust in Him. This is only way to escape hell. This is the only way to have a home in heaven.
 4. Salvation is in Jesus alone. (Jn. 3:36; 14:6; Acts 4:12).

II. **A Precious Name** - The name of Jesus is a precious name. The name of our wife or husband or mother or father or child is precious, but the name of Jesus is the most precious name of all.

- A. His name is precious because of what He has **done for us in the past**. (Isa. 53:6).
- B. His name is precious because of **what He is doing now**.
 1. Jesus is now **making intercession for us** in the court of heaven. Every time we sin and repent Jesus asks the Father to forgive us and the Father forgives us because of the atonement and intercession of His Son. (Heb. 7:25; 1 Jn. 2:1-2).
 2. Jesus also **helps us bear the burdens of life**.
 - a. **A certain man had a daughter who was crippled and was not able to take one step**. One day he came home with a package for his wife. He asked the little girl, “Where is your mother?” She replied, “She is upstairs.” Then the father told the little girl that has a package for her mother. The little girl said, “Let me carry it up to her.” The father gently replied, “Why, you can’t even take yourself up.” Then the little girl said, “But I can take the package and you can

take me.” So the man picked up both the girl and the package and carried them upstairs.

- b. We have many burdens to bear; we cannot carry them alone. But we can come to Jesus and He can carry us and our burdens.

3. Jesus helps us **overcome temptation**.

- a. Not one of us is perfect and often we are tempted by Satan in the fiercest manner.
- b. But we have an outside power to help us overcome. If we depend on Him, He will not allow us to be tempted above what we are able to bear. He will aid us in overcoming temptation. (Heb. 2:18).

C. The name of Jesus is precious because of what He will do for us **in the future**. (Jn. 14:2,3).

1. The Bible tells us that we have not seen or heard or ever imagined all the good things that God has in store for us. We do not know all about heaven, but we do know that it will be a place of bliss that is more wonderful than we can dream or comprehend.
2. **A man tells of going to a mountain resort for his vacation.** When the bellboy led the way into his room, the man went over to the window and looked out at the gorgeous mountain scenery. He said, “That is the most beautiful sight I ever looked upon. I could never grow tired of it.” Then the bellboy said, “But just wait until you see the other side. You won’t think this side is so beautiful. It’s just one great mass of flowers over there.” Oh, life may be very fine for us down here, it may be growing sweeter every day. But this life here will not compare to that life on the other side.

III. **A Comforting Name** - The name of Jesus is a comforting name.

- A. Before Christ went back to heaven, He said, “Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God; believe also in me.” (Jn. 14:1).
- B. Oh, there are many times in our lives when our hearts are troubled and we need the comfort that only Jesus can give.
 1. **A certain merchant had an impressive trade mark.** Underneath his store name were the words, “I never disappoint.”
 2. That’s Jesus. Others often fail us and disappoint us, but not Christ. He will always comfort us if we will but call on Him. (Heb. 13:5).

IV. **A Conquering Name** - The name of Jesus is a conquering name.

- A. He is **conquering sinful hearts** everywhere. He does not conquer by sword or the gun or the bomb. He conquers by love. He does not rail at sinners; He loves them and calls to them.
- B. He invites all who are heavy laden with sin and sorrows and guilt to come to Him. He promises to give sweet rest and forgiveness.

V. **An Exalted Name** - The name of Jesus is an exalted name.

- A. Many names have been exalted in this old world, but there has never been a name like the name of Jesus. Jesus Christ left heaven. He laid aside His royal garments, and came down to a world of sin and shame. Here He had no wealth, no home, no wife, no children, no property, and died on a shameful cross. Then God said, "It is enough. He has suffered enough. He has gone low enough. I'll give Him a throne, I'll exalt His name. I'll place it above every name."
- B. Jesus Christ returned to heaven and is now reigning at the right hand of God. He has all power in heaven and on earth and reigns in millions of hearts throughout the world.

Conclusion.

- I. One time **Queen Victoria heard a sermon on the return of the Lord**. As she thanked the preacher for the message, she said, "I wish that Christ would come in my lifetime." The preacher asked her why she had this desire, and she replied, "Because I would like to lay my crown at His feet." We may not have a crown, but let us come and lay our all at His feet. Let us crown Him Lord of our lives. Let us live to please the name above every name.
- II. Beloved, let me now **draw you a picture of scene at the gates of heaven**. A group comes up from the earth and the door-keeper asks for the password. "Password," they say, "We know no password. But we were **great upon the earth** and we expect to be great in heaven. Then they hear the voice of the Savior beyond the gate as He says, "I never knew you" and they are turned away. Another group comes up and they are asked for the password. "We have no password." But on earth **we did noble things**. We endowed colleges, we built hospitals, we helped the poor." And again the voice of the Lord is heard as He says, "Depart from me. No man enters heaven through his own goodness or through the merits of good works." And they are turned away. Then a third group comes and they are asked for the password. They say, "**We wandered far away from God**. We deserved to die. But we heard the voice of Jesus calling us, so we put all our trust in Him. We come in His name, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Then the gatekeeper cries out, "That is the password, Jesus is the password of heaven. Open the everlasting gates and let the redeemed of the Lord enter in." Then all the host of heaven shouts with joy as God's children enter into God's presence.
- III. **Yes, Jesus is the only way to heaven**. He will save those who will trust and obey Him. Have you made Him your personal Savior? Have you made Him the ruler of your life? Come to Jesus now. Submit to Him in faith and baptism and make Him your all in all. Come as we stand and sing.

B. One night a group of seminary students heard a fire engine go by. They followed the fire engine several blocks to a sanitarium which was burning down. These students went in with the firemen and helped to bring out the patients on the first two floors. Then as they stood in front of the building, they heard screams from the rear of the building. They rushed around to the back and found that four men were trapped on the third floor and were standing at the window pleading for someone to save them from the flames. Since all the ladders were being used, some firemen set up a net and then cried out to these men, "Leap down one at a time and we will save you." The first three men leaped to safety. The fourth man drew back in fear. He said, "I am afraid to risk the net. Isn't there some other way?" The firemen and the students cried out, "The net is safe. Leap now and we will save you." But the man would not risk it. He turned back in the building and later they found his charred body.